



indictment does not allege Petitioner's full name in upper and lower case letters. He asserts a name stated in all-capital letters refers to a corporate entity, and not an individual person. Petitioner claims the prosecutors failed to disclose to Petitioner that the criminal action was commenced against a corporate entity for a corporate commercial crime in an admiralty/de facto commercial tribunal. He also contends the prosecutors failed to disclose other favorable evidence, but he does not identify any such evidence.

Petitioner's petition is without merit. Rule 2(c) of the Rules Governing § 2254 Cases requires that a petition shall "set forth in summary form the facts supporting each of the grounds" presented. Conclusory and speculative allegations are not sufficient to entitle a petitioner to a hearing or relief in a § 2254 case. *West v. Johnson*, 92 F. 3d 1385, 1398-99 (5th Cir. 1996), *cert. denied*, 520 U.S. 1242 (1997); *Perillo v. Johnson*, 79 F. 3d 441, 444 (5th Cir. 1996).

To establish ineffective assistance of counsel, a petitioner must show counsel's performance was deficient, i.e. counsel's performance was not professionally reasonable, and counsel's deficient performance prejudiced the petitioner, i.e. "[t]he defendant must show that there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different." *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668, 687-94, 104 S. Ct. 2052, 80 L. Ed. 2d 674 (1984). There is a strong presumption counsel's conduct falls within the wide range of reasonable professional assistance or sound trial strategy. *Id.* at 689. Deficient performance will be found to be prejudicial only upon a showing that, but for counsel's errors, there is a reasonable probability that the final result would have been different and that confidence in the reliability of the verdict is undermined. *Lockhart v. Fretwell*, 506 U.S. 364, 369, 113 S. Ct. 838, 112 L. Ed. 2d 180 (1993).

Petitioner's claim that his guilty plea was involuntary is conclusory. Petitioner does not explain how his plea was involuntary or coerced. Petitioner does not set out facts showing he received ineffective assistance of counsel. He only alleges counsel was on the case for less than twenty-four hours and counsel did not conduct an independent investigation. Petitioner does not allege how those facts made a difference in his case.

Petitioner's grounds concerning his name being set out in capital letters in the indictment lack merit. *See United States v. Mitchell*, 405 F. Supp. 2d 602 (D. Md. 2005) (characterized this argument as "patently without merit"); *United States v. Washington*, 947 F. Supp. 87, 92 (S.D. N.Y. 1996) (characterized this argument as "baseless"); *cf. Ford v. Pryor*, 552 F.3d 1174, 1179 (10th Cir. 2008) (characterized similar argument as "wholly frivolous"); *United States v. Banks*, 482 F.3d 733, 737 (4th Cir. 2007) (characterized similar argument as "spurious").

Therefore, **this Court directs Petitioner to show cause within twenty-one (21) days why his habeas corpus petition should not be dismissed.** If Petitioner fails to respond to this Order, his petition will also be dismissed for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with the Orders of this Court pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b). *See Martinez v. Johnson*, 104 F. 3d 769, 772 (5th Cir. 1997).

**SIGNED** on May 4, 2010.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Stein Nowak". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

NANCY STEIN NOWAK  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE